

# Acquisition Reform Success Story



## INTEGRATED MAINTENANCE DATA SYSTEM (IMDS)

**SPD/PM:** Colonel William J. Colmer  
**PEO:** Mr John Gilligan  
**Contractor:** Andersen Consulting  
**Contractor PM:** Mr Steve Petchon

### Program Description

IMDS is an information technology program to provide Air Force decision makers with the information they need about operational readiness. IMDS will replace numerous stovepipe Maintenance Management Information Systems (MMIS) with a single, open system client/server network. As the standard Air Force MMIS, IMDS will consolidate, standardize and incorporate emerging technologies throughout its lifecycle to support new customer needs. IMDS will provide over 200,000 users world-wide (including line maintenance personnel, maintenance operations center, squadron commanders, wing commanders and system and item managers) with accurate, timely, reliable and integrated information flow; transparent connectivity to multiple legacy systems; automated production support; classified data processing; a common user interface; single, passive data entry. IMDS will be mobile, deployable and global.

### How Streamlining Made a Difference

Use of commercial off the shelf software was maximized to ensure compatibility with industry standards. Program documentation was minimized by use of a Single Acquisition Management Plan, Statement of Objectives and Technical Requirements and minimum essential Contract Data Requirements List. A partnership with industry (versus traditional adversarial relationship) was developed by coordination with industry to finalize criteria for the Request for Proposal and frequent Rapid/Joint Application Design sessions.

Measure	From	To
MNS to Contract Award	18 months	8 months
Size of SPO	Costly large enterprise	Downsized SPO (50% by 1 Oct 99)
RFP Release to Contract Award	1 year	106 days

**Bottom Line:** By adopting a commercial business philosophy (including focus on past performance, continual interaction with potential contractors and identification of those best qualified), IMDS has established a new set of standards in the field of acquisition (doing it **better**). Evolutionary acquisition ensures first deployment 1 year after contract award and 2 years for operational testing of the core system versus 5 to 7 years for a typical single delivery (doing it **faster**) and subsequent incremental deliveries on a yearly basis with savings of \$11.1M (doing it **cheaper**).